

A.S. Dovzhenko, S.V. Koltakova

Military Educational and Scientific Center of the Air Force
«N.E. Zhukovsky and Y.A. Gagarin Air Force Academy»
Voronezh, Russia

DIFFERENT METHODS OF STUDYING THE SEMANTICS OF A LEXEME

Abstract: The article analyzes the ways of studying the semantics of a word. At the current stage of development of the linguistic science various methods of studying the meaning of a lexeme have been proposed by different linguistic schools. The peculiarities of the component, contrastive and contextual analysis of the lexeme «battle» are described in this article. The undertaken research shows that different methods of linguistic analysis of a word are aimed at different semantic aspects. Due to the component analysis the semantically closest lexemes have been identified. The contrastive analysis has identified the best translation of the lexeme «battle». The contextual analysis has shown how the meaning of the lexeme «battle» changes depending on the context. As a result, all the semantic components, the lexicographic and communicative meanings of the word «battle» have been identified. The research shows that all these methods are interrelated and allow performing deeper analysis of a lexeme.

Keywords: semantics of a lexeme, component analysis, contrastive analysis, contextual analysis.

А.С. Довженко, С.В. Колтакова
ВУНЦ ВВС «Военно-воздушная академия имени профессора
Н.Е. Жуковского и Ю.А. Гагарина»
Воронеж, Россия

РАЗЛИЧНЫЕ МЕТОДЫ ИЗУЧЕНИЯ СЕМАНТИКИ ЛЕКСЕМЫ

Аннотация: В статье анализируются различные способы изучения семантики лексической единицы. На данном этапе развития лингвистической науки разными лингвистическими школами предложены различные методы изучения значения лексемы. В данной статье рассматриваются особенности компонентного, контрастивного и контекстуального анализа лексемы «battle». Исследование показало, что различные методы лингвистического анализа направлены на различные семантические аспекты. В ходе компонентного анализа определены семантически близкие лексемы. Контрастивный анализ помогает выбрать лучший перевод лексемы «battle». Контекстуальный анализ демонстрирует как значение лексемы «battle» меняется в зависимости от контекста. В результате исследования были выявлены все семантические компоненты, лексикографическое и коммуникативное значения лексемы «battle». Исследование показывает, что все методы взаимосвязаны и позволяют осуществить более глубокий анализ слова.

Ключевые слова: семантика лексемы, компонентный анализ, контрастивный анализ, контекстуальный анализ.

At the current stage of development of the linguistic science various methods of studying the meaning of a lexeme have been proposed by different linguistic schools. Each of them is characterized by a certain set of linguistic procedures and a specific purpose. This article deals with the peculiarities of the component, contrastive and contextual analysis. These three methods were applied to analyze the semantics of the lexeme *battle* with the aim to study the meaning of this word in detail.

The component analysis is aimed at identifying all the components of the meaning of the word under consideration. The procedure comprises the following steps: 1) to identify the list of semantically close words with the help of dictionaries; 2) to find the dictionary definition of each word and distinguish all their *semes*; 3) to make a list of all the *semes* of the words under study; 4) to make a table of all the semantic components of the words; 5) to identify the words with the biggest number of the corresponding *semes*. [3].

The analysis of the available reliable dictionaries has allowed to find the following synonyms of the lexeme ***battle***: *action, combat, conflict, duel, fight, fray, melee, scramble, scuffle, shoot-out, skirmish, struggle, tussle, warfare*. The total list of all the *semes* of the words under study includes the following components: *battling, between hostile parties, against something undesirable, a part of a bigger battle, prolonged, armed, hard, with the aim to get free, with the aim to oppose, at the distance from the main forces, not a part of a bigger battle, between small units, random, short, determined, with the aim to restore peace*. As a result of such analysis the semantically closest lexemes can be identified. The biggest number of the corresponding *semes* (3) belongs to two pairs of words: the words ***battle*** and ***warfare***, ***melee*** and ***scramble***. The rest of words have two or only one corresponding *semes*.

The most vivid advantages of the given method are the possibility to identify the semantically closest lexemes, and the fact that it helps to compose the integrated lexicographic meaning with the help of the method of the generalization of the dictionary definitions [3].

If a researcher needs more thorough analysis with the aim to identify the most adequate translation of a word, the contrastive analysis should be applied. The contrastive linguistics studies a unit of one language in contrast to all its possible correspondences in another language with the aim to identify the national specificity of the semantics of the given unit [2] or to find the best variant of translation. The object of the analysis is a contrastive pair, which is defined as two lexemes of the compared languages, which are labeled as interlinguistic correspondences [2]. In each contrastive pair the *semes* obtained due to the component analysis are compared. To carry out the contrastive analysis of the lexeme ***battle*** the algorithm proposed by L.V. Lukina has been applied. So, the *semes* are represented in the following way: the denotative *semes* are not marked, connotative *semes* are capitalized and functional *semes* are given in italic type. The description of the *semes* of a Russian word is given together

with the set of the semes of its one of all possible English correspondences. The semes which do not correspond are given in bold, the absence of a seme in one language is marked as **0**, which means that the seme is culture-specific [1].

The contrastive analysis of all the possible interlinguistic correspondences has shown that the best translation of the lexeme ***battle*** is the Russian lexeme *битва*:

Битва	Battle
large	0
decisive	0
battling	battling
between hostile parties	between hostile parties
with the aim to win	against something undesirable
0	a part of a bigger battle
NONEVALUATIVE	NONEVALUATIVE
UNEMOTIONAL	UNEMOTIONAL
<i>neutral in style</i>	<i>neutral in style</i>
<i>common</i>	<i>common</i>
<i>modern</i>	<i>modern</i>
<i>widespread</i>	<i>widespread</i>

The last type of the linguistic analysis is the contextual one. It is a well-known fact that the context can change the lexicographic meaning of a lexeme. It can modify, intensify and even add particular semes to a word semantics. So, if a researcher needs to know the real meaning of a word, a communicative meaning of a word should be obtained. The *communicative* meaning is defined by J.A. Sternin and M.S. Salomatina as the type of the meaning which is described as generalization of all the semes which are realized in the fixed contexts of the word usage [3]. In order to identify this type of meaning the following steps should be made: 1) analysis of the contexts, in which this word is used; 2) the description of the realization of the meanings of the lexeme in contexts; 3) working out the general definition of the communicative meaning which comprises all the fixed actualized semes.

The British National Corpus has been chosen as the source of the sentences, containing the lexeme ***battle***. The analysis of the contextual usage of the lexeme ***battle*** has shown, that in the examples the following meanings are actualized: 1) *Sport competition*, 2) *A sustained non-violent struggle for something*, 3) *Armed conflict*, 4) *The historic fight*, 5) *Fight*

with illness, 6) Argument in court, 7) Competition for something, 8) Violent fight.

The final step of the research is to compare the communicative and lexicographic meaning of the word **battle**. The meanings which are actualized in the contexts but are not represented in the dictionary are the following: *argument in court, sport competition, fight with illness, the historic fight.*

To sum up, the component, contrastive and contextual methods have been applied to analyze the semantics of the lexeme **battle**. As a result, all the semantic components, the lexicographic and communicative meaning, the best Russian correspondence of the given word have been identified. The research shows that all these methods are interrelated and allow to perform deeper analysis.

The undertaken types of the research have shown that different methods of analysis of a word are aimed at different semantic aspects. A researcher can choose a method of semantic analysis depending on the final goal. But to get a full, reliable systematic picture of the semantics of a word several methods of analysis should be applied.

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